

Pleasant Valley  
Church of Christ

3317 Amidon  
Wichita KS 67204  
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www.letjesusleadus.org

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Classes . . . . . 9:30 am  
Worship . . . . . 10:30 am  
Evening . . . . . 6:00 pm

### Wednesday

Classes . . . . . 7:30 pm

The Pleasant Valley Church of Christ is a non-denominational group of believers who are committed to following Jesus in our attitudes, our relationships, and our worship. If you want the same thing in your life, please contact us. We'd like to help.

Unless otherwise noted, all scripture quotations are from the New King James Version Bible, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

# Wings



*"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles" (Isaiah 40:31)*

March 23, 2008

## Why a preacher?

by David King

In three successive chapters in the book of Acts, we read the stories of three individuals who were converted: The Ethiopian eunuch (ch. 8), Saul of Tarsus (ch. 9), and the Roman centurion Cornelius (ch. 10). Each of these conversions would make a good study by itself, but I want to highlight a single detail that is common to all three. Follow carefully.

The Ethiopian was a pious proselyte returning home after worshipping in Jerusalem. He used his travel time to read from the prophet Isaiah. The Lord knows a good heart when He sees one, and this man had a good heart. So He sent an angel to the evangelist Philip, who was in the midst of a fruitful work in Samaria, informing him that he was to drop everything, and go intercept this traveling Bible student. Philip obeyed, and after a short discussion, the eunuch was baptized into Christ.

Saul was the archenemy of Christianity, sworn to the destruction of this new "heresy." While traveling to Damascus to apprehend disciples there, the resurrected Lord appeared to Saul in a light so bright, it blinded him. The Lord told Saul to go on into Damascus, where someone would meet him and give him further instructions. That someone was Ananias, a devout Christian whom the Lord had to convince (in a vision) to go to Saul. Ananias did as he was instructed, and Saul became a Christian himself, later the great apostle Paul.

While the Ethiopian and Saul were practicing Jews, Cornelius was a Gentile. He was a decent man, one who had a great admiration for the religion of the Jews, but was not a

proselyte. One day, while praying to the God of the Jews, Cornelius encountered an angel, who told him to send for Simon Peter. Meanwhile, Peter also was receiving a message from God, telling him not to reject the invitation of Cornelius when it arrived. Peter did as he was told, and a few days later, the first Gentile Christians were born into the family of God.

Did you notice the common element in each of these stories? In all three cases, God went out of his way to **send a preacher** to the sinner who needed the gospel. He could have just as easily revealed the truth directly to the sinner himself, using an angel, a vision, or some other means. But instead, He always had another human deliver the message. Why?

One could argue that the "human touch" would be more effective with the converts, and that is probably true. But I'm convinced the real reason is because **the preachers needed it**. Philip needed to learn that one soul is just as important as a thousand. Ananias needed to learn that even hardened enemies can change and become children of God. And Peter needed to learn that Gentiles are human beings, too, and need the gospel just as much as Jews. The lessons these men learned on their respective assignments served them well throughout the remainder of their careers.

It is possible for a sinner to learn the truth by studying the Scriptures himself. But the Lord's plan is for His disciples to teach the message themselves — both for the sake of those who hear them, and for their own benefit. There is so much for both parties to learn!